

Application No. 09/655,093
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Atty. Docket JP920000177US1

REMARKS

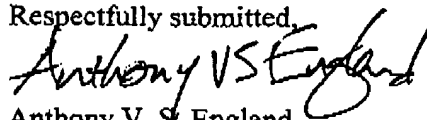
Applicant gratefully acknowledges Examiner's indication that claims 3-5, 10-12, 16, 17 and 19 are allowable when rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the respective base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant responsively herein submits the called for amendments.

In addition, upon further review of the claims responsive to the present Office action Applicant has noted certain minor inconsistencies and lack of antecedent basis in the claims for which amendments are herein submitted.

REQUESTED ACTION

Applicant requests that Examiner grant allowance and prompt passage of the application to issuance. *Applicant strongly encourages Examiner to call or e-mail Attorney England to schedule a telephone conference if Examiner feels upon review of this Reply B that any matters remain to be resolved.*

Respectfully submitted,



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